

**Press Release**  
**March 1, 2004**  
**14**

### **New Mexico saints to be exhibited at the National Art Museum**

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia and the Central Bank of Bolivia's Cultural Foundation are sponsoring an exhibit entitled "*When the Saints Speak*" at the National Museum of Art in La Paz. Featuring the work of 13 contemporary New Mexico-based saint makers, the exhibit will be inaugurated on March 3 with the participation of Mari Lyn Salvador, chief curator of the Maxwell Museum of New Mexico and Joseph Lopez, a saint-maker from New Mexico, who will present a live demonstration on carving and painting saints.

Saint making is considered a form of art that produces figures for devotional expression drawn from the Roman Catholic iconography. Stylistically, saint making in New Mexico covers a wide scope encompassing traditional forms and techniques ranging from the colonial times to modern artistic innovations.

This program is part of an ongoing exchange by the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia to foster an enhanced cultural understanding between the United States and Bolivia.